



## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Seward Neighborhood Group January 27, 2016

### Cam's Upcoming Office Hours Near Seward:

Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:00am,  
Blue Moon Coffee Café, 3822 E Lake St

### Cam Gordon

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### Items:

- 1) 2016 Budget
- 2) Lawless Distillery
- 3) Hi-Lo Diner
- 4) Limited Production and Processing Ordinance
- 5) Franklin Ave Bike Lanes
- 6) Governor's Bonding Bill
- 7) Neighborhood Revitalization Funds
- 8) Emergency Shelters
- 9) Green Zones
- 10) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) In December the Council unanimously passed a \$1.24 billion 2016 budget with only a few amendments to the one proposed by the mayor in August. Some amendments I supported. This includes one that reallocates \$50,000 of existing funds to support senior initiatives as part of the Minneapolis for a Lifetime. These funds could potentially support groups like Southeast Seniors and Seward Longfellow Seniors. I also supported amendments that added \$305,000 for implicit bias, procedural justice, and crisis-intervention training for Minneapolis Police officers; that added \$1.5 million for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to provide for a total of \$10 million for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund in 2016; and a motion that will create a racial equity website aimed at both external and internal stakeholders. I did not support the amendment that passed that took \$50,000, proposed by the Mayor, from a new Green Zones initiative or a motion that would have moved \$605,000 to the Police Department for repair/improvement to the 4th Police Precinct that received most of public comment but was ultimately not even moved. If we need to repair damage to the Precinct, there is a City contingency fund that exists for those kinds of unforeseen expenses. If we need to upgrade security for the building, there is an existing capital process for those kinds of investments. Given the recent protests and the raw feelings of grief and anger large parts of our community feel towards the City and especially the police department since the shooting of Jamar Clark, I felt that this was the wrong time to try to put a lot of money towards securing the 4th Precinct without clear and unanimous community support. While it was a long and emotional public hearing, it was also powerful and inspiring. I am glad that the community came out, that so many people spoke so forcefully and eloquently, and that ultimately the Council respected the community's will. In the end I voted, along with my 12 colleagues, for what is really a strong budget, which helps us maintain or improve our current services and focus resources to address some of most pressing needs: closing economic disparities, racial equity, clean energy, biking and walking, job training programs, quality affordable housing, addressing climate change, improving our environment, preventing violence and improving police practices and our criminal justice practices, and investing in the roads and bridges we depend on, including \$10 for the 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bridge.
- 2) City Licensing staff held a public hearing on the proposed Lawless Distillery cocktail room on January 19 at Matthews Center. Many residents attended, and while I heard some concerns from near neighbors, I also heard some support for the business and a lot of openness on the part of the applicant (who is a Seward resident) to work with neighbors to prevent and address concern.

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- 3) Hi-Lo Diner, 4020 E. Lake St. (at the old Taco Bell location) has submitted an application for a new On-Sale Liquor license with a Class E Entertainment license. I understand that they intend to open in early March. The City will hold a public hearing on this at Brackets Park on **February 3<sup>rd</sup>** from 6-7pm. If approved, they intend to serve a full range of alcoholic beverages as part of a full service restaurant with 70 seats inside and 44 seats on a private outdoor patio. A Class "E" license allows the business to only have radio, TV, juke box, or taped music, and karaoke. Their business plan states that they will have no live entertainment, or outside amplified sound.
- 4) The Council has approved the ordinance I authored that opens up more areas for people to operate limited production and processing and simplifies regulations about the size of commercial uses in general. In recent years, entrepreneurs have opened small-scale establishments throughout the city that create cured meats, chocolate, beer, spirits, honey and other food and beverage products. This has helped fill commercial storefronts and provided uniqueness to Minneapolis. With the adopted changes, these types of businesses could now be established administratively, without a public hearing before the City Planning Commission.
- 5) City staff are moving forward with a plan to upgrade the standard bike lanes on E Franklin to a protected bikeway between Riverside/29<sup>th</sup> Ave S and the planned new protected bikeways on the Franklin Avenue bridge. This work is proposed to occur in 2016. This will also connect to planned bike lanes to be installed on Franklin Ave SE in Prospect Park, all the way to St. Paul, also in 2016.
- 6) I was glad to see that the Governor's 2016 state bonding proposal of \$1.4 billion in state funding includes the city's top priority for state funding: \$31.875 million in funding for 10<sup>th</sup> Ave Bridge rehabilitation. The city has already set aside \$10 million to help preserve and maintain this critical link between Southeast Minneapolis and the West Bank.
- 7) After a year-long process of review by staff and neighborhood organizations, the Council has approved a policy change related to unexpended Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) funds. Among other provisions, the new policy will require the city Neighborhood and Community Relations staff to prepare a status report of each neighborhood's Phase I and Phase II Plans in chronological order based on the date of Phase II plan approval. If the neighborhood has not expended at least 85% and contracted at least 95% of the original plan allocation plus program income (for both Phase I and Phase II) by the seven-year anniversary of the Phase II plan's approval by the City Council, the neighborhood must submit a plan for achieving thresholds within one year; or complete a robust neighborhood review process to affirm or revise current strategies; or request a waiver. The full policy is available here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMS1P-150504>.
- 8) The City Council has unanimously approved the Shelter ordinance amendments I coauthored with my colleague Lisa Bender. This means the city will now allow small *emergency shelters* in many more places in the city and allow larger *overnight shelters* as a primary use in only the C2, C4, Downtown and Industrial Living districts. It will allow emergency shelters in most zoning districts, but with the number of beds defined by the zoning density, and will never be greater than 32. In addition, I am authoring an ordinance that will require emergency shelters to be licensed by the City's Health Department (which is already responsible for hotels, motels, boarding houses and etc. through the Food, Lodging and Pools division). I look forward to seeing these ordinances pass the Council early next year. I am hopeful that this easing of regulations will result in additional high quality, new shelters being open in the city.
- 9) The Health, Environment and Community Engagement committee has passed a resolution I co-authored with Council members Cano and A. Johnson that directs staff to develop a Green Zone Policy that the City Council could adopt in late 2016 and creates a Green Zone Policy Task Force comprised of community leaders (e.g., residents, businesses, environmental justice advocates, etc.) and City staff to lead this initiative. This is an initiative approved as part of our Climate Action Plan. It is intended to not only address sustainability and greenhouse gas emission reductions, but also to address equity. More details can be found here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMS1P-151461>.
- 10) Visit the City's website for a [full list of appointment opportunities](#) and position descriptions for City boards and commissions. Appointments to boards and commissions are made twice a year — in the spring and fall. This streamlined appointment process makes it easier for folks to learn about volunteer opportunities, ensures a more open and understandable process for residents and staff, and increases the diversity of the applicant pool.